

IN THE CLAIMS

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1 (currently amended). A method of managing a dispute about a pre-existing agreement, comprising:

automatically receiving information relating to the dispute from one of an initiator and a respondent, the initiator and the respondent being parties to the agreement, and

iteratively providing portions of the information to the other of the initiator and the respondent in accordance with predetermined criteria relating to either a rating of a portion of the information supplied after a start of the dispute by the initiator or the respondent, or relating to the number of portions of the information to be provided at an iteration.

2 (original). The method of claim 1, further comprising automatically retrieving information relating to the community of the other of the initiator and the respondent.

3 (original). The method of claim 1, wherein the received information includes at least one factor and an evaluation of the desirability or cost of the factor.

4 (original). The method of claim 3, wherein the at least one factor includes at least two of historical harm, future harm, an incentive, a punishment, a request, an offer, and a desired outcome.

5 (original). The method of claim 1, further comprising iteratively receiving factors relating to the dispute from the other of the initiator and the respondent.

6 (original). The method of claim 1, further comprising iteratively receiving evaluations of the desirability or cost of the portions of iteratively provided information from the other of the initiator and the respondent.

7 (original). The method of claim 1, further comprising automatically proposing an agreement to resolve the dispute based on the received information.

8 (original). The method of claim 7, wherein the agreement is automatically proposed in accordance with factors relating to the dispute received from the other of the initiator and the respondent.

9 (original). The method of claim 8, wherein the agreement is automatically proposed in accordance with an evaluation of desirability from the initiator or the respondent and an evaluation of cost from the other of the initiator or the respondent, the evaluations being associated with the same portion of the dispute related information or the same dispute related factor.

10 (original). The method of claim 1, further comprising automatically providing advice to the other of the initiator and the respondent based on iteratively provided information.

11 (currently amended). An apparatus for managing a dispute about a pre-existing agreement, comprising:

A1 a computer for automatically receiving information relating to the dispute from one of an initiator and a respondent, the initiator and the respondent being parties to the agreement, and for iteratively providing portions of the information to the other of the initiator and the respondent in accordance with predetermined criteria relating to either a rating of a portion of the information supplied after a start of the dispute by the initiator or the respondent, or relating to the number of portions of the information to be provided at an iteration.

12 (original). The apparatus of claim 11, wherein the computer is also for automatically retrieving information relating to the community of the other of the initiator and the respondent.


13 (original). The apparatus of claim 11, wherein the received information includes at least one factor and an evaluation of the desirability or cost of the factor.

14 (original). The apparatus of claim 13, wherein the at least one factor includes at least two of historical harm, future harm, an incentive, a punishment, a request, an offer, and a desired outcome.

15 (original). The apparatus of claim 11, wherein the computer is also for iteratively receiving factors relating to the dispute from the other of the initiator and the respondent.

16 (original). The apparatus of claim 11, wherein the computer is also for iteratively receiving evaluations of the desirability or cost of the portions of iteratively provided information from the other of the initiator and the respondent.

17 (original). The apparatus of claim 11, wherein the computer is also for automatically proposing an agreement to resolve the dispute based on the received information.

 18 (original). The apparatus of claim 17, wherein the agreement is automatically proposed in accordance with factors relating to the dispute received from the other of the initiator and the respondent.

19 (original). The apparatus of claim 18, wherein the agreement is automatically proposed in accordance with an evaluation of desirability from the initiator or the respondent and an evaluation of cost from the other of the initiator or the respondent, the evaluations being associated with the same portion of the dispute related information or the same dispute related factor.

20 (original). The apparatus of claim 11, wherein the computer is also for automatically providing advice to the other of the initiator and the respondent based on iteratively provided information.

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